

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave comprising:

a block defining plural openings that are closed at one end of said plural openings and are open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings; and

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said closure member comprises a cover member and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said locking device is to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 20, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations in a pressure tight manner at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said locking device comprises plural fasteners passing through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said closure member includes plural spherically-shaped protrusions facing said another end of said plural openings.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressure and temperature reactor vessel~~ multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said

closure member includes plural protrusions each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protrusions each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device forces said closure member against said block a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

36. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 24, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

37. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 19, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

38. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said locking device includes threaded fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block.

39. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another.

40. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 39, wherein said closure member comprises a cover and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said threaded fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

41. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 40, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

42. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 41, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said threaded fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

43. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

44. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

45. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

46. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

47. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

48. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

49. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

50. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

51. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

52. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

53. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

54. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 44, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

55. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 40, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

56. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 38, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

57. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said locking device comprises a rigid frame enclosing said block.

58. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another.

59. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 58, wherein said closure member comprises a cover and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block.

60. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 59, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

61. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 60, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations.

62. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

63. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

64. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

65. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

66. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

67. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

68. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

69. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

70. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

71. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

72. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural

protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

73. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 63, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

74. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 59, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

75. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said rigid frame also encloses said closure member.

76. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 57, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

77. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, further comprising a frame surrounding said block so as to prevent lateral deformation of said block and ensure that outer ones of said plural openings remain sealed in the pressure tight manner.

78. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another.

79. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 78, wherein said closure member comprises a cover and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said locking device is to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

80. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 79, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

81. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 80, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations.

82. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 81, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

83. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 78, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

84. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 78, wherein said locking device includes threaded fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block.

85. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 84, wherein said closure member comprises a cover and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said threaded fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

86. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 85, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

87. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 86, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings

are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said threaded fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

88. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 87, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

89. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

90. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

91. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

92. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

93. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

94. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

95. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

96. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

97. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

98. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

99. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

100. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 90, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

101. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 79, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

102. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 77, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

103. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

104. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 103, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations in a pressure tight manner at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said locking device comprises plural fasteners passing through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

105. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

106. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said block comprises a compressible or deformable material.

107. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

108. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

109. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

110. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

111. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

112. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

113. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

114. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

115. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

116. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

117. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 18, wherein said locking device includes fasteners passing through said closure member and into said block at positions that are located between at least some of said plural openings.

118. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in a pressure tight manner so as not to be in fluid communication with one another.

119. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 118, wherein said closure member comprises a cover and a seal member, with said seal member being constructed and arranged to be positioned between said cover member and said block such that said fasteners are to force said closure member against said block by applying a force against said cover member such that said seal member is forced against said block.

120. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 119, wherein said plural openings comprise perforations that extend completely through said block.

121. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 120, further comprising another closure member to seal said perforations at said one end of said plural openings, whereby said plural openings are closed at said one end of said plural openings in the seal tight manner by virtue of said another closure member sealing said perforations,

wherein said fasteners pass through holes extending through said cover member, through said block and through said another closure member.

122. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a compressible or deformable material.

123. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member is fixed to said cover member.

124. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies fixed to said cover member and facing said another end of said plural openings.

125. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural spherically-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member and face said another end of said plural openings.

126. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are fixed to said cover member.

127. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises plural circular disk-shaped bodies that are not fixed to said cover member.

128. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is fixed to said cover member.

129. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said seal member comprises a membrane that covers said plural openings and is not fixed to said cover member.

130. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein a single said closure member is provided.

131. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said cover member comprises a rigid plate.

132. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 117, wherein said plural openings each have a width-wise dimension, and said block includes plural protruding profiles each with a width-wise dimension that is greater than a corresponding width-wise dimension of said plural openings, with said plural protruding profiles each being of a cross-sectional shape such that when said locking device applies the force against said cover member said seal member is forced against said plural protruding profiles such that a pressure tight seal is formed over and around each of said plural openings.

133. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 123, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.

134. (New) The multi-autoclave according to claim 119, wherein said seal member comprises a polymer film sized so as to cover all of said plural openings.